



# Station adopters newsletter

Christmas edition





## Hello and welcome to the Christmas Edition of the EMR Station Adopters Newsletter

It has been a busy six months since the last Newsletter in June, both for station adopters and the wider EMR railway family. I am sure you must have been delighted to get back to your stations in July and it has been a pleasure to hear about the projects and activities you have been working on since then. The work you do is hugely appreciated by everyone using our stations – passengers, staff and the wider community – so thank you on behalf of us all.

The Emergency Measures Agreement with the Department for Transport came to an end in September and has been replaced by an Emergency Recovery Measures Agreement which will continue for the next 18 months until March 2022. This Agreement gives us the stability to continue to implement our franchise improvements such as the introduction of our new fleets, about which you will read more on page 10, and the enhancement of our station environments with our manned stations and cycle spaces projects, amongst many others, on which our Infrastructure & Property colleagues have provided an update on page 11.

I was delighted to hear about your successes at the National Community Rail Awards, which took place virtually on 9th December. Congratulations to all those of you who were shortlisted for your work at your stations and your community rail projects. A special mention to Michael Willmot, Chair of North Staffs CRP, and Sarah Hampton from Friends of Beeston Station, who were both recognised for their Outstanding Volunteer Contributions.

Several of my colleagues took part in the Coffee Roulette event earlier in December to celebrate International Volunteers Day. They have reported back to me how much they enjoyed their interactions with you and just as importantly what they learned about Community Rail and how that information will help them to help you and other adopters in the future. I hope the experience was an equally positive one for those of you who took part.

With the news that the Covid-19 vaccine is now being administered across the UK, I am hopeful 2021 will be a more positive year for us all. In the meantime, thank you to you all for your hard work and commitment to Community Rail and on behalf of everyone here at EMR I wish you a peaceful and happy Christmas.

*W. Rogers*

**Will Rogers**

Managing Director

# COMMUNITY RAIL AWARDS



Wednesday 9th December saw the annual Community Rail Awards take place, for the very first time, virtually. This meant everyone could join in the celebrations from home. Despite not being able to catch up with Community Rail friends from around the country, we did not let this dampen our spirits. We were lucky enough to have 18 shortlisted entries from across the EMR region, with 6 projects and 12 stations being placed in the 'It's Your Station' category. To help the celebrations at home we sent out a party pack to everyone who had been nominated for an award.

Community Rail Network, as usual, hosted an excellent evening with special guest speakers and inspirational words regarding the challenging year we've all had. It was great to hear about all the fantastic work going on in Community Rail and at stations across the country.

We're delighted to announce the following winners:



**Photography competition, 'Age is just a number', Kaye Robinson for Poacher Line CRP**



**Outstanding Volunteer, Mike Willmot, North Staffs Chair**



**Outstanding Volunteer, Sarah Hampton, Friends of Beeston Station**



**Renewable art schemes, Poacher Line and South Nottinghamshire Academy, Fine Art at Radcliffe**

A huge congratulations to all and all the stations that were given Bronze, Silver, Gold and Platinum in the It's Your Station category.

The winners booklet, which always provides inspiration, can be downloaded directly from the Community Rail Network events page on their website.







# NEWS FROM THE EAST

**Covid-19 has most certainly made the last six months interesting but it is great to see projects being started (and finished) across the East of the region.**

Friends of Beeston Station finally managed to get the rest of their photography display installed on Platform 2. The wonderful images show the history of transport in Nottinghamshire and each piece is now accompanied by an informative write up.

The Friends of the station also hosted one of our newest station adoption groups – Friends of Burton Joyce & Lowdham Stations. They gave the group a tour of the station as well as talking about how they have worked with the local authorities, EMR, Network Rail and other businesses to improve the station greatly in the past few years.

The Friends of Burton Joyce & Lowdham were grateful for the trip as they are looking to make similar enhancements to their own stations over the coming year. At Lowdham Station, adopters David and Frances Moore orchestrated the move of the old signal box into their garden. David now intends to restore the signal box to its former glory, turning it into a museum and education area. We look forward to seeing how this project progresses over time.

Down in the south of the region, Spalding adopters have benefitted from the installation of new lifts at their station. The adopters worked closely with the contractors to have all the planting areas re-soiled and the contractors also donated almost £1000 for new plants. Plans are also in progress for further work at the station in 2021, with ideas for new planting areas, artwork and a general clean up.

The Robin Hood Line has benefitted from an influx of new adopters this year, with Rotary groups in Kirby in Ashfield and Shirebrook joining the scheme to help improve their respective stations. Many activities were planned for the Robin Hood Line this year but sadly Covid-19 has curtailed most of them. Thankfully our dedicated adopters have continued to litter pick, garden and fault report and we are hoping to regenerate the stations together in 2021.

You can read further news from the East in the Poacher Line and North Nottinghamshire & Lincolnshire CRP updates

**Kaye Robinson**



## DERWENT VALLEY LINE

**Following the end of the national lockdown in July, we have been busy supporting our station adoption groups and developing many new projects to take forward along the Derwent Valley Line.**

Our station adopters were very enthusiastic to get back volunteering at their stations, to look after their station gardens, and we have welcomed a considerable number of new adopters to many of our stations. More planting barrels have been installed at Matlock Bath and at Whatstandwell, station adopters completely emptied and refurbished their planters as well as weeding the car park garden area and adding a large quantity of woodchip mulch.

There have been so many wonderful new project ideas come forward through our station groups and the wider community, which we have been pleased to support. At Ambergate the recently expanded station group hosted the local primary school's annual pumpkin carving competition, which was under threat, due to Covid-19 restrictions for indoor gatherings. More than 25 children took part and the pumpkins created an impressive Halloween display on the approach road up to the station. The pumpkins were carved into a vast range of scary faces and creative creatures including an elephant, a cat and an octopus. The pumpkins formed part of an extensive Halloween display in the station garden area along with ghosts, skeletons, witches and fictional gravestones created by the Ambergate station adopters.

Judges from the Community Rail Partnership and EMR awarded prizes across the different age groups with winners receiving tickets for family days out to Cromford Mill, Ecclesbourne Valley Railway and Heights of Abraham along with complimentary train travel from EMR. All the entrants received an EMR goodie bag including Derwent Valley Line Activity Book, balloons and pens

In November, twelve new planting baskets were installed on the platform fence at Long Eaton, funded by Community Rail Network and Long Eaton Chamber of Trade. The baskets were planted by the Long Eaton station adopters who also care for numerous large shrub planters around the station entrance. Sponsor signs will soon be installed to welcome passengers to Long Eaton - UK centre of quality upholstery manufacture.

We are also excited to be taking forward several new projects funded by Community Rail Network. We are working with Engineered Training, a Community Interest Company in Derby who provide welding and fabricating courses for young people, who will design and produce a steel entrance arch for Duffield station. In partnership with Bee Friendly Trust, we are planning to turn some of our stations into more wildlife friendly environments with large scale planters and station garden transformations. By the spring, hopefully our stations will be buzzing with both wildlife and passengers.

**Alastair Morley**



# NORTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE & LINCOLNSHIRE



## **The North Notts & Lincs Community Rail Partnership has, like everyone else, experienced an untypical year in 2020.**

In March NNLCRP changed from being an unincorporated body under the wing of a local authority to a community interest company.

Our Community Rail Partnership Officer's contract expired on 31st March and was not renewed. We have therefore operated without the benefit of an officer since then.

In June we worked with our partner North Lincolnshire Council to submit to the DfT a proposal to extend trains from Gainsborough Central to Barton on Humber as part of their Restoring Your Railway project. At the end of November, the Government announced that the DfT will part-fund a feasibility study for the project.

At three of our four stations managed by EMR, station adopters continued to make the flowers bloom throughout the year. The fourth station is awaiting planters so the volunteers can make a start on brightening their station.

Back in December 2019 the new platform two was opened at Gainsborough Lea Road. In 2021 we are looking forward to work starting on the next phase with the construction of another new platform and making the vacated former booking hall operational once again.

We are currently working on plans for substantial artwork projects in 2021 at both Lincoln & Gainsborough Lea Road stations.

**Barry Coward, Chair**

## POACHER LINE



## **We have had a busy and productive time along the Poacher Line in the past few months. We have seen our allotment project at Sleaford station commence over the summer and with help from EMR and Network Rail staff we have built raised planters and a shed. Our adopters Kirsty, Russell and Adele continue to get the allotment ready to invite Rainbow Stars, a local autistic charity, to start planting soon**

The Bottesford Friendly Garden continues to grow in strength and we are delighted to welcome Rupert, Jess, Jon, Mark and Rachel to the team. We managed to arrange an action day in September where Dr Luke and Sid from the Bee Friendly Trust came to give us a hand in creating a wild flower garden area.

After a targeted campaign to recruit adopters in the Boston area we were successful in signing up 17 adopters, which also led to two new adopters at Heckington. Between them they will look after six stations from Swineshead through to Skegness. A warm Poacher Line welcome to you all!

In November the 27 metre artwork "Continuity Connections" by artist Alisha Miller was unveiled at Boston. It tells the story of the entire Poacher Line and really brightens up the station; it is well worth a visit if in the area! New planters were also installed in late November which have further enhanced the station.

We have had some sad news over the past couple of months from The Friends of Radcliffe that Doris Southgate had passed away over the summer and that Michael

Bedford had recently passed away after a brave battle with cancer. Both were founding members of the group and will be greatly missed by all. The Friends of Radcliffe are planning a fitting memorial at the station in both Doris' and Michael's memory in the new year.

In other news we were delighted to receive Silver placings for Bottesford, Radcliffe on Trent and Heckington stations in the Community Rail Awards and 1st place for the photography competition with 'Age is just a number' taken at Skegness Vintage Festival in 2019. We also got a 3rd place for our art project with 3 students from South Nottinghamshire Academy. They worked with residents from the Manor Home in Radcliffe on Trent to produce stunning pieces of art to go up at the station.

We are very close to having a new Poacher Line website with a dedicated page for each station adoption group. Please keep sending in your news and pictures along with any videos you make and hints and tips; it's your page to showcase the hard work you do.

2021 is looking to be an exciting year for the Poacher Line with developments at Sleaford, Boston and Skegness stations in the pipeline and I hope to get as many of you involved as possible – watch this space!

I would like to end with a massive thank you to all of our wonderful adopters for the hard work you continue to do at the stations; it has been a very challenging year. I wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a much improved 2021!

**Joanne Andrews**



# NORTH STAFFORDSHIRE

## The Railway in Autumn – children's art competition

In lieu of an on train event we launched our first CRP art competition on-line with the theme of The Railway in Autumn. The joint winners were Benjamin and Harry, both aged 7. They have won a visit to Middleport Pottery in Stoke-on-Trent and rail travel tickets for their families to nearby Longport Station. The runner up was 6 year-old Riley. All three children have won some art materials to inspire them with further creations. All of the artwork submitted will be displayed at Longport Station. Many thanks to all the entrants

## Community Rail Awards success

I am delighted that our CRP Chair, Mike Willmot was awarded Second Place for the Outstanding Volunteer Contribution award for his work at Helmsdale Station and on the Far North Line, and travel planning at Shrewsbury Station, as well as chairing the NSCRP since its inception in 2005. He also served on the Community Rail Network committee for 4 years. Well done Mike!

Three of our station adopter groups have won Gold It's Your Stations awards: Uttoxeter, Alsager and Longport. Kidsgrove has won a Silver award in the same category. Many congratulations to you all!

The Uttoxeter Pergola and Arbour / Tool Shed project reached the shortlist for the Most Enhanced Station award. The station adopters did an amazing job to get this project completed.

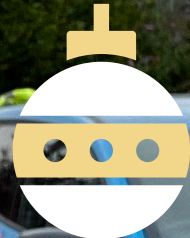
## Uttoxeter Urban Sketchers bring their historic town centre to the station

The Uttoxeter U3A Urban Sketchers group, created by station adopter, Barbara Kelly, has produced some beautiful artwork to entice race goers and other station users to visit the town centre. Uttoxeter is full of interesting buildings, such as Ye Old Talbot Inn, a late 16th century building, now Grade 2 listed, The Samuel Johnson Memorial and the 17th century Redfern's Cottage, now home to the Museum of Uttoxeter Life. The artwork is printed on vinyl and displayed on the inside of the platform waiting shelters.

Claire Sandys







# FROM YOUR ROVING REPORTER

**Lockdown has certainly given me a new appreciation of my personal freedom and job satisfaction and it has been an absolute pleasure to finally get out and meet you all and to welcome many new faces to our station adopter family.**

It has been a busy few months: everyone has had their annual safety briefing and been issued with new ID cards and smart pink hi-vis. There's been lots of weeding and tidying and the recent winter planting all over the route is looking fantastic.

Both Claire and Al have provided updates on their respective lines so I'm taking a look at what some of our other adopter groups have been up to, with apologies for anyone I may miss in this whistle stop news round up. Down at Hinckley the group continues to make inroads into coaxing weed clogged beds into insect friendly wild flower gardens and over at Narborough the adopters have been keeping a close eye on the progress of the overhaul of the footbridge and displaying a knitted steam train in the ticket office. Knitted poppies also made an appearance for Remembrance Day – and I know many other stations joined in the commemorations with their own displays.

Market Harborough, Kettering and Wellingborough are starting to emerge from their scaffolding and plastic sheeting cocoons. I know it has been a frustrating time for the adopters at these stations as they have not been able to do any work on their gardens and planters during the Midland Mainline upgrade building works. In recent weeks, they have been given the green light to return and it has been really exciting to hear some of their plans for 2021 and beyond as well as welcoming many new faces to these groups. Talking of new adopters, Corby has been officially adopted in the last month and our two adopters there made it into the local newspaper – which will hopefully encourage more people to come forward to help.

Over at Burton-on-Trent significant strides are being made by the adopters from Burton Rotary on their Renaissance Project. In November contractors started the work of clearing the vegetation on the long strip of land between the two platforms. Weedkiller was applied and bark chippings have now been laid. The next phase of the project is the launch of a competition to add detail to the statue planned for one of the garden areas and to put together some station history boards. In the meantime, the planters that have been discovered during the land clearance work have been filled with winter flowers.

I spent a beautifully sunny September day out at our stations at Stamford, Oakham and Melton Mowbray. Currently, only Stamford is adopted but I am hopeful that more adopters will come forward as news of the wonderful work you all do at our stations spreads around the network. In the spring I am planning to arrange a visit by the Syston group to Stamford as we look at some joint co-operation between the two stations. Syston has also been helping the Willington group with its plans for a memorial stone, having undertaken a similar project themselves a couple of years ago.

With lots of plans and projects for 2021 I know that it's going to be an amazing year for EMR Community Rail and I can't wait to get out and get stuck in helping you!

**Alexa Stott**





# A day in the life of...

My name is **James Noble** and I am one of the **Station Supervisors at Sheffield Station**. I have worked for EMR since 2014 and I love the way in which my job can vary dramatically on a daily basis.

As well as being responsible for the day-to-day operational side of running the station, I work closely with other train operating companies that use the station, help our passengers, and make sure that the staff are ok and have everything that they need to carry out their duties safely and correctly.

Working with the public is great and I really enjoy the diversity of people I meet, sometimes getting to know them a little bit better than just a face passing by on their different journeys.

There is no such thing as a typical day as things can change at the drop of a hat, as happened a couple of weeks ago when a freight train derailed in the station, or the time one of our cleaners had a cardiac arrest and I had to administer CPR until the emergency services arrived. I have picked one day from last week to give you an insight into what can happen during a 12 hour shift...

When I arrive at work, I always like to walk around the station carrying out my various checks, looking for faults and making sure that the staff are ok. I then watch various members of the station team dispatching a few trains to make sure that all the procedures are being carried out correctly and safely.

Walking along the platform, I meet a family with a small baby who have missed their train to Manchester Airport. Understandably, they are quite distressed about missing their flight to Canada but I manage to reassure them that I can help. What I love about my job is the fact that I can help people and EMR gives me the tools to do that. I arrange a taxi to get them to Manchester Airport and they are able to catch their flight in time. [As a thank you, the family sent me a thank you letter, a great caricature of myself and a bottle of maple syrup. This went down well with my own children when I got home!]

Putting the customer first is of great importance in my role and I believe that if I can help, then I will do all I can. Sadly, I cannot always help everybody, like the time a man who could not speak English needed my help. After much signalling and hand gestures I ascertained that he spoke Turkish. Using Google Translate, it turned out that he was

looking for a priestess in a grass skirt! Needless to say, that was one request I could not help with.

At Sheffield station, we have quite a few homeless people who we support through the 'Help Us Help' campaign; a group of charities who provide clothing, food and shelter, and resources for domestic abuse, drug and alcohol addiction. One of the regular homeless people who I have built a good rapport with approaches me and tells me they are struggling to access food due to Covid-19 so I arrange to get them the help that they need.

British Transport Police come to the office to ask for assistance locating a missing person who they believe may be travelling by train and who they believe to be vulnerable. I am given a description, which I hand out to platform staff, and I then review the station CCTV footage. Luckily, I am able to confirm the person has travelled on an earlier train and British Transport Police are subsequently able to locate the person.

I manage to get a short lunch break, which is very different from pre-Covid times, when there didn't seem to be a spare minute. During the pandemic, the station has been running on a reduced number of staff but as an essential worker I have worked all the way through lockdown. Running the station with less staff has brought different challenges; from making sure that all the trains are covered on the platforms so that they leave safely and on time, to covering shifts when staff have been off due to Covid-19. On this particular day, because we have less staff on duty, I cover the dispatch of a few trains and also carry out some of the platform duties, such as security searches.

I love that every day is different and unique at Sheffield Station and that I have to deal with new and unexpected challenges. My favourite part of the job is meeting the public and providing excellent customer service. The variety of people we meet is vast and the diversity of passengers passing through the station gives me a greater insight into people's individuality.

At the end of a long shift I enjoy coming home to my family although sometimes being at the railway station can seem quieter and less stressful, especially during the first lockdown where home schooling gave me a headache along with backache from doing Joe Wicks' workouts! It is never a dull moment; I relish my time both at work and at home and, thanks to the pandemic, I have learnt to appreciate everyone just that little bit more.





The Fleet preparations for our December 2020 timetable are progressing with pace; we have had some real successes across our Class 170 and 180 introduction projects. Our first Class 170 (170417) was named "The Key Worker" and entered service on the Robin Hood line on 2nd November. This was a "soft" introduction to allow us to test the trains and processes prior to the "hard" launch on 14th December when three Class 170 units entered service. Two further Class 170 units will be used for maintenance and to support the ongoing driver training programme.

We continue to undertake training runs of our Class 180 fleet to support the training of our driver and on-train colleagues. On 17th November we had our first coupled (10-car) operational test run ahead of our launch on 14th December. There are lots of other things happening on the Class 180 fleet introduction including recruiting and training staff and undertaking various maintenance activities to make sure that the fleet is "ready to go". The introduction of the Class 180 in December will also see a reduction in the usage of our HST fleet.

Whilst the entry into service of the Class 170s should allow the Class 153s to be withdrawn from service, we are still looking at options to retain a number of these to supplement our Class 156/158 fleet to support strengthening and special events, as required.

In the background, lots of work to prepare for these changes is taking place including investigating

modifications at our rolling stock depots and looking at potential upgrades to the fleets.

**Gareth Race**

## **Our new Bi-mode Fleet**

It was announced in October that East Midlands Railway's new Intercity fleet will be known as Aurora after the name was chosen from more than 2,000 competition entries.

The new state of the art Class 810 bi-mode trains will be built by Hitachi Rail UK in County Durham. They have the ability to run using electric overhead lines wherever possible, taking advantage of the £1.5 billion Midland Main Line Upgrade and will ultimately replace our diesel train fleet. As a result, they are quieter and greener, meaning lower carbon emissions and a better environment for passengers, stations and communities along the route. Passengers will also see major improvements, including more seats and fresh, modern interiors alongside air conditioning, free WiFi, plug sockets, increased luggage space and better passenger information screens.

Construction is due to start later this year with the first units likely to start main line testing in mid-2022, and the first entry into passenger service due in early 2023. There will be 33 five-car bi-mode units, able to operate as either 5 or 10 car formations.

**Rachel Turner**





## Cycle Schemes

Five small schemes which will deliver a total of 24 cycle hoops have been approved and will be installed at Bingham, Radcliffe, Burton Joyce, Gainsborough Lea Road and Netherfield between now and March 2021.

A larger scheme is planned for Skegness, where 'Lock It Safe' cycle racking will be relocated from Kettering following completion of the cycle hub there, which will add another 24 spaces at Skegness.

The development work for the Kettering cycle hub is in its final stages and it is anticipated that work will start in late 2020/early 2021 once the designs have been approved. The project should deliver 180 spaces including the relocation of spaces from the existing hub.

The new cycle hub at Market Harborough is now open for business. The £300k hub provides 100 secure spaces, overlooked by CCTV. Access to the hub is by key fob, available from the station ticket office.

## Manned Stations

Work continues on the modular building design for 7 of the 9 stations in this project. Site visits have been undertaken to cost the civil works needed to connect up to the utilities at each location.

Building condition surveys have now been received for the two stations that will occupy refurbished buildings – Matlock and Gainsborough Lea Road – and discussions are ongoing with the landlords.

The project delivery deadline is March 2022 and it is expected that, once the go ahead is given, work will begin in March/April 2021, with Syston and Utttoxeter expected to be the first locations.

## Minor Works Projects

The work to install chicanes on the Long Eaton ramps has been completed.

The project to install new flooring and automatic doors at Sheffield station is planned to start in January 2021, with completion expected in March 2021.

Funding has been confirmed for tactile paving for the platforms at Nottingham station and the programme of works is now awaited.





# Photography Competition

## *"A Winter's Tale"*

To win a day with the Community Rail Team we want you to get your cameras out and submit your best photos with the theme 'A Winter's Tale'. We'd love to see atmospheric shots of your stations, garden areas or of your local community.

Entries are limited to one photo per adopter.

Please email your entry to [stationadoption@eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk](mailto:stationadoption@eastmidlandsrailway.co.uk) by **28th February 2021**.

Winners will be picked and announced in the first week of March.

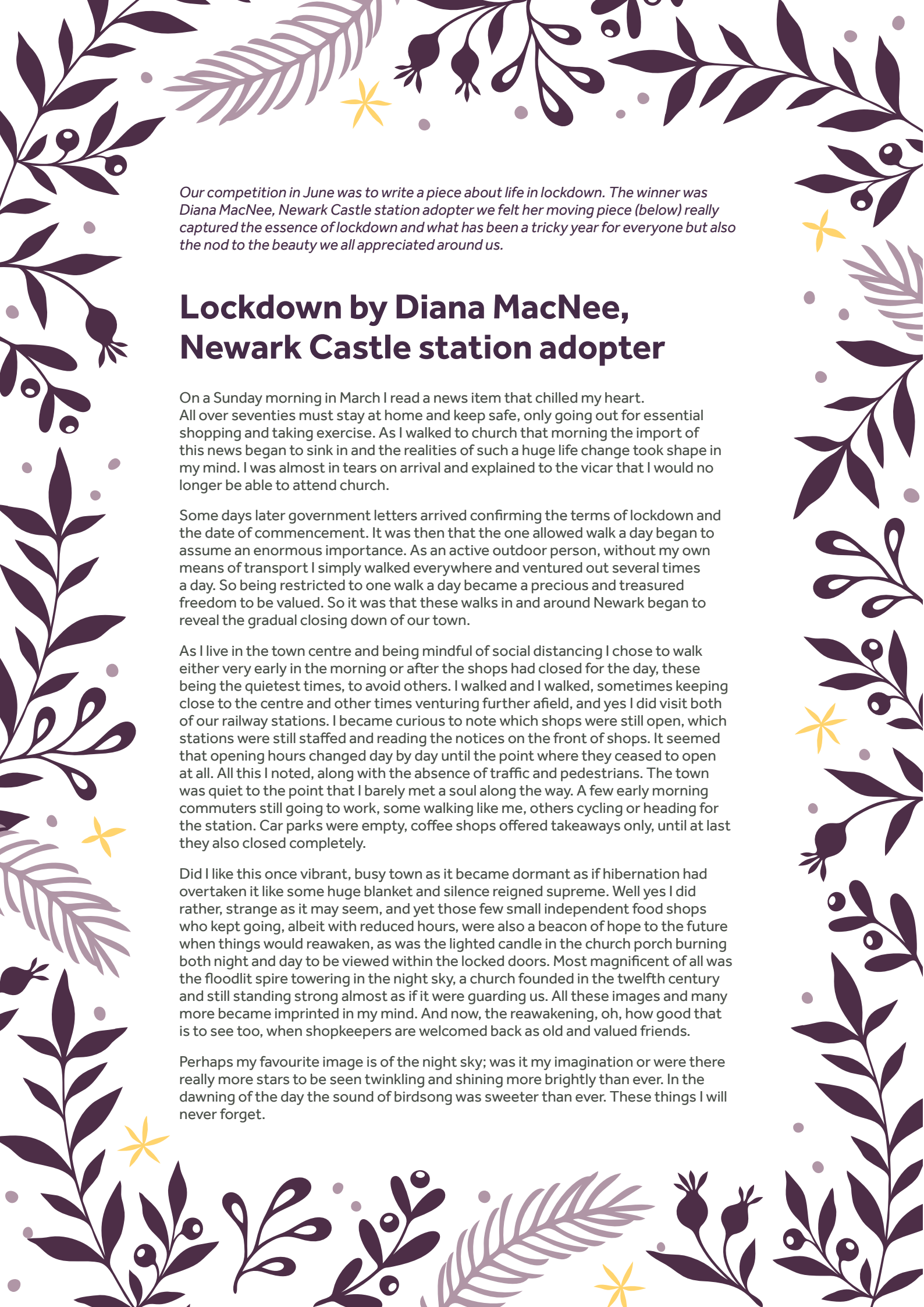
## Newark Castle

Covid-19 slightly altered our plans to spend the day with adopters at Newark Castle. However, on one very sunny day we managed to put in the first two planters, which were made by a young offender who had smashed a window at one of our stations.

Newark in Bloom kindly donated plants for them and the adopters will tend to them going forward. We are hoping to lend our hands for another action day in the New Year when Covid-19 has settled further and more plans have been made for the station. The adopters have ideas for a garden in the car park so there will be plenty of digging to do.

Would you like us to come and help at your station? Then why not enter our Christmas competition above.





*Our competition in June was to write a piece about life in lockdown. The winner was Diana MacNee, Newark Castle station adopter we felt her moving piece (below) really captured the essence of lockdown and what has been a tricky year for everyone but also the nod to the beauty we all appreciated around us.*

## **Lockdown by Diana MacNee, Newark Castle station adopter**

On a Sunday morning in March I read a news item that chilled my heart. All over seventies must stay at home and keep safe, only going out for essential shopping and taking exercise. As I walked to church that morning the import of this news began to sink in and the realities of such a huge life change took shape in my mind. I was almost in tears on arrival and explained to the vicar that I would no longer be able to attend church.

Some days later government letters arrived confirming the terms of lockdown and the date of commencement. It was then that the one allowed walk a day began to assume an enormous importance. As an active outdoor person, without my own means of transport I simply walked everywhere and ventured out several times a day. So being restricted to one walk a day became a precious and treasured freedom to be valued. So it was that these walks in and around Newark began to reveal the gradual closing down of our town.

As I live in the town centre and being mindful of social distancing I chose to walk either very early in the morning or after the shops had closed for the day, these being the quietest times, to avoid others. I walked and I walked, sometimes keeping close to the centre and other times venturing further afield, and yes I did visit both of our railway stations. I became curious to note which shops were still open, which stations were still staffed and reading the notices on the front of shops. It seemed that opening hours changed day by day until the point where they ceased to open at all. All this I noted, along with the absence of traffic and pedestrians. The town was quiet to the point that I barely met a soul along the way. A few early morning commuters still going to work, some walking like me, others cycling or heading for the station. Car parks were empty, coffee shops offered takeaways only, until at last they also closed completely.

Did I like this once vibrant, busy town as it became dormant as if hibernation had overtaken it like some huge blanket and silence reigned supreme. Well yes I did rather, strange as it may seem, and yet those few small independent food shops who kept going, albeit with reduced hours, were also a beacon of hope to the future when things would reawaken, as was the lighted candle in the church porch burning both night and day to be viewed within the locked doors. Most magnificent of all was the floodlit spire towering in the night sky, a church founded in the twelfth century and still standing strong almost as if it were guarding us. All these images and many more became imprinted in my mind. And now, the reawakening, oh, how good that is to see too, when shopkeepers are welcomed back as old and valued friends.

Perhaps my favourite image is of the night sky; was it my imagination or were there really more stars to be seen twinkling and shining more brightly than ever. In the dawning of the day the sound of birdsong was sweeter than ever. These things I will never forget.





**With best wishes for Christmas and the  
New Year from the Community Rail Team**

**E M R**

Produced by Community Rail at East Midlands Railway. All information  
was correct at the time of printing in December 2020.